

EXHIBIT 17A

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : H. B. FLETCHER *PHB7*
 FROM : L. WHITSON *lw*
 SUBJECT: JUDITH COPLON, was
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: March 21, 1949

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Egan _____
 Mr. Gurnea _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Pennington _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

When Judith Coplon was arrested on March 4, 1949, in New York City, she had 34 data sheets of the Foreign Agents Registration Section in her possession. Consideration is being given as to which of these data sheets can be used at the trial. One of the data sheets related to the investigation of the case is set forth below:

INFORMATION APPEARING ON THE DATA SHEET

"Philip Levy

"T-2 reported that he learned in May of 1945, subject's brother, Jacob Levy Civian had met an individual whom he thought 'looks like a Russian general' and was considering entering into some business relationship with him. Subject advised against it unless the individual would be willing to put up \$5,000 for a survey of the Mexican situation. It is thought that the person discussed was Joe Pikker (phonetic) or Joe Foster. Later Civian entered the country having in his possession five packages of \$1,000 each in \$20 bills. It is noted that this denomination has frequently been used in Soviet espionage payoffs.

#Burke report, Newark, 11/23/48, Re: Philip Levy, Int. Sec. -R"

(5)

INFORMATION APPEARING IN THE BUREAU'S REPORT

The report of Special Agent Edward G. Burke dated November 23, 1948, at Newark (Bureau file reference 100-335075-240) in the case entitled, "Philip Levy, Internal Security - R," sets forth the following information which was the basis for the above data sheet:

"T-2 advised that the subject and Civian discussed business transactions with Joseph C. Foster, whose address in 1944 was 282 North Main Street, Leominster, Massachusetts.

"In May of 1945, the Informant learned that Civian had met an individual whom he thought 'looks like a Russian general' and was considering entering into some business relationship with him. Levy advised against it unless the individual would be willing to put up \$5,000.00 for a survey of the Mexican situation. It is thought that the person discussed was Joe Pikker (phonetic) or possible Joe Foster. Later Civian entered the country having in his possession five packages of \$1,000.00 each in \$20.00 bills. It is noted that this denomination has frequently been used in Soviet espionage payoffs."

RJL:lfc

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BUREAU INFORMANT'S IDENTITY IN THE REPORT

Confidential informant T-2 in the above report was NK C-21 which was a technical surveillance on Philip Levy. The identity of this informant is believed to be fairly well protected in the report.

OBSERVATIONS

The Philip Levy investigation is a case which has been pending over a considerable period of time and has been an important espionage investigation. There has been some consideration lately toward closing out this investigation. It is believed that this data sheet could be used pending a determination of the other factors regarding this matter which are discussed separately in the cover memorandum. It is not felt that this data sheet can be used if it will be necessary to produce the Bureau report. The Bureau report is 61 pages in length, summarizes our investigation of Philip Levy in detail, and among other things mentions the President's Assistant, David K. Niles.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this data sheet be used if only the data sheet is to be used and not the report.